TOMATOES (for Fresh Market)

The Massachusetts fresh market tomato crop weighed in at 74,000 hundredweight in 1998, a 25 percent increase in production from the previous year's drought-reduced crop. Mild winter conditions allowed farmers an early start for planting, but heavy June rains adversely affected some growers. The dry weather later in the season held down disease and insect populations, and yields increased from the previous year. Farmers harvested 450

acres in Massachusetts, 30 more acres harvested than the previous year. Yields averaged 165 hundredweight per acre compared with 140 hundredweight per acre in 1997. Growers received \$100.00 per hundredweight for the 1998 crop, an increase of \$20.00 per hundredweight from a year earlier. Total value, at \$7.4 million, was up 57 percent from the previous year, and the highest value of tomato production since 1990.

TOMATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production and Value, 1989 - 1998

STATE & YEAR	Area		Yield per	Production	Value per	Value of
	Planted	Harvested	Acre		Cwt	Production
	Acres		Cwt	1,000 Cwt	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Massachusetts						
1989	660	540	225	122	60.00	7,320
1990	660	560	260	146	60.00	8,760
1991	590	460	210	97	70.00	6,790
1992	650	570	150	86	80.00	6,880
1993	550	520	180	94	60.00	5,640
1994	530	490	180	88	60.00	5,280
1995	550	480	135	65	75.00	4,875
1996	500	450	150	68	85.00	5,780
1997	510	420	140	59	80.00	4,720
1998	500	450	165	74	100.00	7,400



